In the Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A prosthetic valve in the form of a flap valve which includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the valve only in one direction, the or each flap being made of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal

Claim 2 (original): A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes a single flap arranged to close against a supporting wall mounted upon a peripheral stent.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said [[a]] valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 4 (original): A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said the flaps are mounted.

Claim 5 (original): A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 6 (original): A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib around the perimeter of the valve.

Claim 7 (original): A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A prosthetic valve as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, ~~wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy~~ wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: woven wire, knitted wire, chainmail, and perforated plate.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A prosthetic valve as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 8 ~~wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: woven wire, knitted wire, chainmail, perforated plate~~ wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 10 (new): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method including the provision of a prosthetic valve in which the or each flap is made of a flexible open work structure of a medically acceptable metal.

Claim 11 (new): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 12 (new): The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the or each flap of the valve is coated with an inert degradable sealing material when the valve is initially fitted.

Claim 13 (new): The method as claimed in any one of claims 10-12 wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: woven wire, knitted wire, chainmail and perforated plate.

Claim 14 (new): The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.